

WASHINGTON, DC—Yesterday, April 22, 2009, Congressman Sestak (PA-07) met with Arie Herzog, Director of the Israeli Missile Defense Organization, Brigadier General Pinchas Barel Buchris, Director General of the Israeli Ministry of Defense, and several other government officials.

The purpose of this meeting was to discuss the security interests of Israel, both short and long-term. Specifically, the conversation focused on the regional ballistic missile threat posed by Iran, and defensive measures of common interest. These include missile defense systems, some of which the United States and Israel are currently developing together.

“Israel remains a vital ally to the United States and I was proud to meet with—and work with—some of its leading defense figures,” the Congressman said at his office in Washington. “I look forward to continued cooperation and friendship between our two nations in the years ahead.”

*Born and raised in Delaware County, former 3-star Admiral Joe Sestak served in the Navy for 31 years and now serves as the Representative from the 7th District of Pennsylvania. He led a series of operational commands at sea, including Commander of an aircraft carrier battle group of 30 U.S. and allied ships with over 15,000 sailors and 100 aircraft that conducted operations in Afghanistan and Iraq. After 9/11, Joe was the first Director of "Deep Blue," the Navy's anti-terrorism unit that established strategic and operations policies for the "Global War on Terrorism." He served as President Clinton's Director for Defense Policy at the National Security Council in the White House, and holds a Ph.D. in Political Economy and Government from Harvard University. According to the office of the House Historian, Joe is the highest-ranking former military officer ever elected to the U.S. Congress.*

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